

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION ARA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5777

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, VE, NU

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ COMMENTS ON CUBA

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA TOLD ME ON DECEMBER 16, 1974, THAT VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ TOLD HIM DURING HIS MEETING WITH HIM IN VENEZUELA THAT HIS PREDECESSOR CALDERA HAD SECRETELY BEEN TRADING WITH CASTRO'S CUBA, AND HAD ACTUALLY SHIPPED CERTAIN ITEMS TO CUBA IN VENEZUELAN NAVAL SHIPS. PEREZ SAID, ACCORDING TO SOMOZA, THAT IT WAS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL IN VIEW OF THIS BACKGROUND FOR VENEZUELA TO ESTABLISH SOME KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA IN ORDER TO AVOID CUBAN ANGER AND HARASSMENT. SOMOZA SAID THAT PEREZ EXPRESSED HIS DISGUST WITH CALDERA'S ALLEGEDLY SECRET TRADING WITH CUBA AND THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE IT ON THE BASIS OF OPEN RECOGNITION AND OPEN TRADE RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO SOMOZA, PEREZ ALSO SAID THAT THE "SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN PRESSING HIM" TO SHIP PETROLEUM TO CUBA AND IN RETURN, THE SOVIET UNION WOULD SHIP AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF PETROLEUM TO VENEZUELAN CUSTOMERS IN EUROPE AND THUS SAVE THE SOVIET UNION THE LONG TANKER HAUL. PEREZ DID NOT SAY WHAT HIS DECISION WOULD BE. SHELTON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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